

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

August 4, 2008

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hartwell City Council was held on Monday, August 4, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 500 E. Howell Street , Hartwell , Georgia , with all members present.

Mayor Matt Beasley called the meeting to order and welcomed the large number of citizens in attendance.

Rev. Alan Stewart gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance as led by Mayor Beasley.

Hearing no additions or corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting, a motion was made by Councilman Little to approve the minutes as recorded. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously.

Mayor Beasley congratulated the Greater Northeast Georgia “Angels” basketball team, ages 14 and under, for placing sixth in the nation. During the recent national tournament, the team also earned the Team Academic Award for the highest grade point average, as well as other accomplishments from individual players.

Mayor and Council heard a presentation from a representative of Johnson Controls, Inc. regarding a proposal for a feasibility study of the City’s utility system and other areas of operation of the City’s facilities and infrastructure. It was explained that the study would identify losses of water through meters as well as identify operational efficiency measures that could reduce the City’s operating expense and improve operating conditions. In reviewing the proposed contract, City Attorney Rob Leverett stated that an addendum had been prepared to go with the contract agreement to reflect changes he had questions about. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Little to enter into a contract with Johnson Controls, Inc. at a cost of \$44,495.00 for the feasibility study to include meter reading improvements and other system improvements as explained. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously. Councilman Gordon asked that another timeline date schedule be included since the date had passed for commencement of the study as shown in the proposed agreement. As questions arose regarding how manpower would be affected if the City chooses to implement an automatic meter reading system, it was stated that there was always an opportunity to redirect labor to other departments.

As discussion began regarding the current Community Development Block Grant project in the Rome neighborhood, Councilwoman Mayfield stated that she was not proud of the way the new sidewalks have been installed. She presented a petition from residents, asking that the sidewalks be removed on Savannah Street and replace new sidewalks right beside the street, rather than have the sidewalk up against the street. She stated that residents thought the roads would be wider, but the curbing had narrowed the streets even more. City Engineer Charlie Armentrout explained that the primary purpose of the CDBG project was to control flooding in the area, and

the sidewalk was the second component. He also stated that it was not the intent to widen any streets. Mayor and Council heard complaints from several citizens, and Mr. Robert McIntosh suggested taking out the existing sidewalk on Savannah Street and placing it back close to a utility pole. Other complaints were also heard regarding width of sidewalks, type of curbing, driveways, and drainage issues. Councilman Little stated that the City could either continue with the sidewalk installation, remove the sidewalks, or another study could be done and more property rights-of-way acquired, which would take another 3 to 5 years. He also stated that he would like to find out if the grant would be affected if the scope of the project was changed. After extensive discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to stop construction on the project until more information on the grant is received. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield. Upon further discussion, Councilman Hicks amended his motion to suspend construction of sidewalks and curbing. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously. It was the consensus of Council to meet again in special emergency called session on Tuesday, August 5, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. in the council chambers of city hall to discuss the issue further.

Mr. Joe Whittemore addressed Mayor and Council regarding a request for sidewalks on Webb Street at the United Methodist Church . Mr. Whittemore requested that sidewalks be extended to at least the new church parking lot. Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to ask the City Manager to look at the cost involved and report back to Council. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Gordon, seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously to approve beer/wine licenses for Pizza Hut of Hartwell, Reed Creek Food Mart, and Kobe Express Japanese Cuisine.

A motion was made by Councilman Little, seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously to accept the low bid from C. J. Hodge Enterprises, Inc. for approximately 80 natural gas high pressure regulator farm taps at a cost of \$350.00 each.

City Manager David Aldrich presented proposed Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia (MGAG) contract amendments for Mayor and Council's review. No action was taken.

A motion was made by Councilman Gordon, seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously to accept the Public Works Director's recommended street priority list for submittal to the Department of Transportation for consideration of possible funding for street improvements under the DOT's Local Assistance Road Program. The priority list included Leard Street (from Forest Creek Circle to W. Howell Street) and N. Forest Avenue (from Harper Drive to Franklin Street .) Councilman Little stated that he would like to be able to give an input in determining what streets needed resurfacing in the future.

Due to the Labor Day holiday being the first Monday in September, a motion was made by Councilwoman Mayfield to set the date of Tuesday, September 2, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. for the next regularly scheduled Council meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously.

Following the second reading of Ordinance No. 2008-09, amending the Historic Preservation Ordinance, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to adopt the Ordinance. Motion was

seconded by Councilman Gordon and carried unanimously.

A proposed budget for a fire training facility was presented to Mayor and Council, showing a cost estimate of \$214,820 total building cost, plus an additional cost for site preparation, paving, and lighting, totaling \$276,590 for total project cost. The City Manager explained that about one half of the cost had been put back over the years for a fire training facility, and the City could either take out the additional funding needed from unrestricted reserves or place in the budget for the new year. He further stated that a fire training facility would not only enhance firefighting capabilities, but also help the City maintain its good ISO rating. Fire Chief Terry Vickery also explained that this facility would eliminate having to send firefighters out of town for training. A motion was made by Councilman Little to authorize the City Manager to obtain quotes for a fire training facility. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gordon and carried unanimously. It was also noted that site preparation could be accomplished in-house.

Upon recommendation by Wastewater Treatment Plant Chief Operator Dan Moorhead, a motion was made by Councilman Little to accept the bid of \$5,590 from Pattenburg, Inc. for roof replacement at the Wastewater Treatment facility. Motion was seconded by Councilman Gordon and carried unanimously. The roof replacement will include a membrane roof installed over the current flat roof. As requested by Council during the July Council meeting, quotes were also obtained for covering the existing flat roof with a gable roof, with quotes ranging from \$19,500.00 to \$19,896.59.

Following a brief discussion regarding a request from the developer of Cottage Village Subdivision for resurfacing of Saliba Drive, a motion was made by Councilman Gordon to continue with the idea that the request for resurfacing would be approved at the conclusion of the completion of home construction in the Subdivision, as previously stated in a February 16, 2006 letter from the former City Manager, which was read by Mayor Beasley. Following further discussion, Councilman Gordon amended his motion to include that the City would move forward with resurfacing South Forest Avenue . Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously.

Mayor Beasley reported that he had received calls from retail businesses regarding the recently adopted ordinance regulating alcohol server's licenses. The Mayor stated that it was his understanding that the ordinance regulation only involved restaurants, and not to be enforced on retail establishments. Upon the Mayor's recommendation and following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Gordon to authorize the City Attorney to amend the ordinance to only apply the server's license requirement to establishments that serve on-site consumption of alcoholic beverage by the drink. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Hicks to authorize the City Manager to get cost estimates for a sewer flow meter. The City Manager explained that numbers had already been received and Council should have the information in their monthly packet showing a cost of \$7500; however, it was noted that copies of the information were inadvertently left out of the packets. Councilman Hicks moved to amend his motion to authorize the purchase of this item at a cost of \$7500 as indicated in the information presented by the City Manager. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Mayfield and carried unanimously.

Council requested that agenda item no. 17 regarding water contract proposal be put back on next month's agenda.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Councilman Gordon to instruct the City Manager to execute a contract to lease two Harley-Davidson motorcycles from Daytona Harley-Davidson at a cost of \$350.00 per month per bike for two years to be used by the Police Department. Motion was seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously. As explained by the City Manager, the average mile per gallon (mpg) per fleet in the Police Department was 15 mpg.

A motion was made by Councilman Gordon, seconded by Councilman Hicks and carried unanimously to appoint City Manager David Aldrich to serve on the Regional Water Council.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner

City Clerk